



Waukesha COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND LAND USE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cooper Power Systems Awards Retzer Nature Center \$2,500 Grant *Award will go towards a sky deck used for stellar observation*

Waukesha, WI – Retzer Nature Center received a \$2,500 grant from Cooper Industries' Environmental Excellence Awards Program on Thursday, August 9 for the future development of a sky deck to enhance environmental education and evening constellation viewings. The facility earned the environmental Excellence Award for successfully reducing volatile organics in their transformer painting operations.

"Waukesha County is grateful to have generous corporate citizens like Cooper Power Systems in its backyard. Their gift will enhance the environmental education experiences at the county's renowned Retzer Nature Center and will provide visitors with a permanent location to take in night sky programs," stated County Executive Dan Vrakas.

The grant will be used to construct an outdoor observation area adjacent to the facility's Environmental Learning Center where program participants and the public can directly view the nighttime sky without competing light.

Dave Ruppel, Site Manager for Cooper Power Systems said, "The Cooper Power Systems facilities in Waukesha County and South Milwaukee facilities have donated more than \$74,500 to support environmental efforts in the area through Cooper's Environmental Excellence Awards Program since the inception of the program. We are proud to be able to support our local community and to recognize the efforts of our employees who make their home here. This award highlights how business success can benefit Cooper, the environment and the community."

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“Cooper Power Systems Awards Retzer Nature Center \$2,500 Grant,” continued...

Retzer Nature Center was expanded in 2004 through a partnership with the Waukesha School District, which provided for the relocation of its Charles Z. Horwitz Planetarium to the complex. The expansion, which opened in 2005, included the addition of a 4,622 square foot learning center and a 3,620 square foot planetarium.

The state-of-the-art planetarium serves as a resource to the students, teachers and community participants interested in learning about earth and space in a three-dimensional environment that effectively demonstrates challenging space science concepts conducive to a wide range of learning styles. The sky deck will also provide planetarium visitors with an opportunity to view planets, meteor showers and other celestial objects and events through telescopes.

Cooper Power Systems manufactures equipment, components and systems for distributing and managing electrical energy. Its products are used by utility companies to bring electric power to homes, industries, businesses and institutions throughout the world. Cooper Power Systems is a division of Cooper Industries, Inc., a USA-based Fortune 500 company.

Retzer Nature Center is part of the Waukesha County Park System, a natural resource based park system that demonstrates stewardship while providing recreational and educational opportunities. The facility is located at S14 W28167 Madison St. in Waukesha. For more information about the center or the planetarium call (262) 896-8007 or visit www.waukeshacountyparks.com.

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